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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Organization of work of the Third Committee and draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1994-1995

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 46/140 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly reaffirmed the recommendations on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee contained in its resolution 45/170 of 18 December 1990 and recommended further rationalization measures, as outlined in annex I to resolution 46/140.

2. The present document contains in annex I further measures on the organization of work of the Third Committee and in annex II the draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1994-1995. The draft programme has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority. It also takes into account the draft proposals on which the Third Committee has taken action. The draft proposals that are pending action by the Committee have been placed in square brackets. The information in the annexes will be updated orally by the Secretariat when they are considered by the Committee.

ANNEX I

Organization of work of the Third Committee

A. GUIDELINES CONCERNING TIME-LIMITS OF STATEMENTS

1. In accordance with rule 106 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 22 of decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session, the Chairman of the Third Committee should propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers.

2. Further to General Assembly resolutions 45/175 of 18 December 1990 and 46/140 of 17 December 1991, on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, statements made by delegations or on behalf of groups of delegations and by Secretariat officials, unless decided otherwise by the Committee at the beginning of the session, should not exceed 15 minutes. This time-limit will have to be applied with a degree of flexibility towards all speakers. With a view to saving time, all speakers are encouraged to exercise self-discipline, in particular delegations associated with group statements. For practical reasons, group statements are encouraged for the first day of the discussion of an item or sub-item. In this connection, it is important to emphasize the timely distribution of documentation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in order to enable delegations to inscribe themselves on the list of speakers at an early stage.

B. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON REPORTS OF TREATY BODIES AND REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE STATUS OF THE TREATIES

3. Reports of all treaty bodies will be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with their respective legislative mandates. Substantive resolutions on those reports should be adopted biennially, in accordance with the programme of work of the Third Committee. Where possible, it is recommended that separate draft resolutions on the status of the treaties should not be submitted but should be incorporated in the draft resolution relating to the report of the treaty body. In alternate years, the Committee should simply take note of the reports unless more substantive action is deemed appropriate.

C. DRAFT PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

4. The Economic and Social Council, in transmitting draft proposals to the General Assembly should, to the extent possible, bear in mind the programme of work of the Third Committee.

D. PROGRAMME OF WORK

5. An informal meeting of the Third Committee should be held immediately after the election of the members of its Bureau in order to consider the programme of work of the Committee based on a draft to be prepared by the Secretariat and to consider other organizational aspects relating to the Committee's work, especially the status of documentation.

6. The items allocated to the Third Committee for consideration during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly should be taken up in the following order:

Item 2. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination 1/

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination 1/

Item 4. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family 2/

Item 5. Crime prevention and criminal justice 2/

Item 6. Advancement of women

Item 7. International drug control

Item 8. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Item 9. Human rights questions 3/, 4/

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

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1/ Items 2 and 3 are to be discussed jointly. Delegates may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

2/ Items 4 and 5 are to be discussed jointly. Delegates that wish to make two statements under item 4 may do so.

3/ Sub-items (a) and (d) are to be discussed separately; sub-items (b) and (c) are to be discussed jointly.

4/ Delegations that wish to make three statements under the item may do so, but should not make two statements on any one sub-item.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Item 10. Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts

Item 11. Preparation for and organization of the United Nations Year for Tolerance

Item 12. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council (item 12)

7. This arrangement may be reviewed at the organizational meeting of the Third Committee particularly in the light of the status of documentation at that time.

E. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

8. In drawing up draft resolutions, delegations are requested to adhere to the programme of work of the Third Committee agreed to in General Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 and its decision 47/432 and as reproduced below.

9. Delegations are invited to take into account the general guidelines agreed upon in resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 regarding the submission of draft proposals and as set out below: 5/

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

- Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

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5/ Reference to "even" or "odd" years relate to calendar years.

Item 2. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Annual

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Biennial

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (even years)

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination

Annual

Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of people to self-determination (to be considered biennially after the entry into force of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries)

Item 4. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Annual

World social situation 6/

World Summit for Social Development

Biennial

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1994, 1995 and odd years)

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, International Year of Older Persons (1999) and related activities (odd years)

Policies and programmes involving youth (1994, 1995 and odd years)

National experience in promoting the cooperative movement (even years)

Popular participation in its various forms as an important factor in development and in the full realization of all human rights (odd years)

Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future (odd years)

International Year of the Family (1994; thereafter, biennially, if necessary)

Quinquennial

Anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1994)

International Literacy Year (1995)

6/ 1994 - General debate on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

1995 - Interim report on the world social situation and report of the Commission for Social Development.

1996 - General debate on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

1997 - Report on the world social situation and report of the Commission for Social Development.

Item 5. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Annual

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Action to combat alien smuggling (1994)

Biennial

International cooperation in combating organized crime (even years)

Quinquennial

Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1995)

Item 6. Advancement of women

Annual

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

Fourth World Conference on Women (to 1995)

Violence against women migrant workers

Biennial

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (even years)

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (odd years)

United Nations Development Fund for Women (odd years)

National experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (odd years)

Item 7. International drug control

Annual

Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Biennial

Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (even years)

Item 8. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Annual

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

International Conference on Central American Refugees

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

Convening of a United Nations conference for comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants (1994)

Biennial

New international humanitarian order (even years)

Quinquennial

Extension of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1997)

Item 9. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Annual

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments of human rights

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (biennially after the entry into force of the Convention)

Biennial

Convention on the Rights of the Child (even years)

Report of the Committee against Torture and status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (even years)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (even years)

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (even years)

International Covenants on Human Rights (odd years)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Annual

Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Right to development

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes

Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (biennially after the forty-ninth session)

Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat

Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

International Year of the World's Indigenous People (1994)

Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

United Nations year for tolerance

Plight of street children

Biennial

Summary or arbitrary executions (even years)

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights (even years)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (even years)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region (even years)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (even years)

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (even years)

Human rights and extreme poverty (even years)

Human rights and mass exoduses (odd years)

Human rights in the administration of justice (odd years)

Human rights and scientific and technological progress (odd years)

National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (odd years)

Quinquennial

Award of human rights prizes

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Annual

Implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights

Item 10. Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts 7/

Item 11. Preparation for and organization of the United Nations Year for Tolerance 7/

Item 12. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People 7/

7/ Consideration in 1994.

ANNEX II

Biennial programme of work of the Third Committee for 1994-1995

1994 8/

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (resolution 3380 (XXX) and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.14)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolutions 2106 A (XX) and 47/78)

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.16)

8/ The programme of work and documentation for 1994 will be revised in the light of the relevant decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in 1994.

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.12)

Report of the Secretary-General on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.15)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.19)

Item 4. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family 9/

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution on policies and programmes involving youth (resolution 47/85)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (resolution 47/90)

Report of the Secretary-General containing the plan of action to implement the long-term strategy of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/20 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.7/Rev.1)

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (resolution 47/92 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.11/Rev.1).

9/ General debate on the basis of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (resolution 44/57)

Item 5. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council, including the views of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on strengthening international cooperation in combating organized crime (resolution 47/87)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.8)

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken to combat alien smuggling (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.9/Rev.2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the draft resolution on crime prevention and criminal justice (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.10/Rev.1)

Item 6. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (resolution 34/180) 10/

Final version of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (resolutions 44/77 and 44/171 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.33)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 47/94)

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/9 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.31)

10/ Report submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.32)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.33)

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.35)

Item 7. International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on the updated System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (resolutions 45/148, 46/102 and 47/100 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.18) 10/

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (resolution 47/97 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.18)

Item 8. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Secretary-General on the new international humanitarian order (resolution 47/106)

Report of the Secretary-General on the convening of a United Nations conference for comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.21/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on emergency international assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.23/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Central American Refugees (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.27)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.28)

Item 9. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council, including a draft plan of action on a human rights education decade (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.47)

Report of the Human Rights Committee (resolution 2200 A (XXI)) 10/

Report of the Committee against Torture (resolution 39/46)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25) 10/

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (resolution 47/108)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (resolution 47/112)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 47/113)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 36/151)

Report of the Secretary-General on effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.61)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.67)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 47/125)

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights (resolution 47/128)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (decision 47/430)

Report of the Secretary-General on respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.44)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.49)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the bodies of the United Nations system on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.50)

Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.55)

Report of the Secretary-General on a programme within the United Nations on strengthening the rule of law (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.56)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.60)

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.71)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (resolutions 47/132 and 47/133)

Human rights and extreme poverty (resolution 47/134)

Human rights and terrorism (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.42)

Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.43)

Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.45)

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.48)

Plight of street children (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.66)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on rape and abuse of women in the former Yugoslavia (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.51/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.70)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat in assisting the Cambodian Government and people in the promotion and protection of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.75)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Situation of human rights in Cuba (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.36/Rev.1)

Situation of human rights in Iraq (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.57)

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.58)

Situation of human rights in Somalia (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.62/Rev.1)

Situation of human rights in the Sudan (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.65/Rev.1)

Situation of human rights in Haiti (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.72)

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.73)

Situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia: violations of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.74/Rev.1)

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Secretary-General (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.38)

Item 10. Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on child sales, child prostitution and child pornography (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.39/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the study on protection of children affected by armed conflicts (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.40)

Item 11. Preparation for and organization of the United Nations Year for Tolerance (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.46)

No advance documentation

Item 12. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Preliminary report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive programme of action for the Decade (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.54)

1995

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (resolution 3380 (XXX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (resolutions 2106 A (XX) and 47/78)

Item 3. Right of peoples to self-determination

Item 4. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council, including the final draft of the world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond (Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/24)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.3)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of efforts to ensure the equalization of opportunities and full inclusion of people with disabilities within the various bodies of the United Nations system (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.2)

Report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on progress made and problems encountered in the quest to achieve a literate world (resolution 46/93) 10/

Report of the Secretary-General on a draft programme for the preparations and observance of the International Year of the Elderly (Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/22 and draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of the Family (General Assembly resolution 47/237)

Item 5. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Item 6. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (resolution 34/180) 10/

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.30)

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.34) 10/

Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Economic and Social Council decision 1992/272)

Item 7. International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 8. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Item 9. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Human Rights Committee (resolution 2200 A (XXI)) 10/

Report of the Committee against Torture (resolution 39/46)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (resolution 36/151)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.53)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive programme of action for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.54)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.63)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.76)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Internationally displaced persons (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.64)

Human rights in the administration of justice (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.69)

[Human rights and scientific and technological progress (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.77)]

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the Secretary-General (draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.38)

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee

1. The Working Group of the Third Committee was established by the Committee at its 32nd meeting, on 12 November 1993 with the following mandate, as adopted by the Committee:

"To establish the open-ended working group of the Third Committee which will undertake as a matter of priority the consideration of the question of the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights for the promotion and protection of all human rights, and will also consider other aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the said Declaration.

"The open-ended working group will be transparent, be supported with conference services, including interpretation and documentation, and work with a view to achieving consensus.

"Accordingly, the working group will start its deliberations by considering the question of the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights with the view to completing this consideration by the end of the work of the Third Committee.

"Upon the completion of this issue, the working group will consider other aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of Part II of the said Declaration.

"The Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Ambassador José Ayala Lasso, will be the Chairman of the working group."

2. The Working Group held meetings on 15, 18, 22, 24, 26 and 30 November 1993 and on 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10 and 11 December 1993.

3. Taking into account the discussions which took place at these meetings, the Chairman of the Working Group prepared the text of a draft resolution which formed the basis of the negotiations.

4. Following the conclusion of these negotiations, the Working Group adopted by consensus a draft resolution entitled "High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights", for consideration by the Third Committee.

5. Some delegations expressed the view that, with regard to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the adoption of the draft resolution would be without prejudice to the decisions that the Fifth Committee may take on the allocation of resources. This view was supported by the Working Group.

6. The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below:

High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to promote and encourage respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Emphasizing the need to observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and for the full implementation of the human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2/ as well as the Declaration on the Right to Development, 3/

Considering that the promotion and the protection of all human rights is one of the priorities of the international community,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ Resolution 41/218, annex.

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights,

Reaffirming the commitment contained in Article 56 of the Charter of the United Nations to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the United Nations for the achievement of the purposes set forth in Article 55 of the United Nations Charter,

Emphasizing the need for the promotion and protection of all human rights to be guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, in the spirit of constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

Aware that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that as such they should be given the same emphasis,

Reaffirming its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and programme of Action, 4/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,

Convinced that the World Conference on Human Rights made an important contribution to the cause of human rights and that its recommendations should be implemented through effective action by all States, the competent organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations,

Acknowledging the importance of strengthening the provision of advisory services and technical assistance by the Centre for Human Rights and other relevant programmes and bodies of the United Nations system for the purpose of the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Determined to adapt, strengthen, and streamline the existing mechanisms to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while avoiding unnecessary duplication,

Recognizing that the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights should be rationalized and enhanced in order to strengthen the United Nations machinery in this field and to further the objectives of universal respect for observance of international human rights standards,

Reaffirming that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights are the responsible organs for decision- and policy-making for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Reaffirming the necessity for a continued adaptation of the United Nations human rights machinery to the current and future needs in the promotion and

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4/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), sect. III.

protection of human rights and the need to improve their coordination, efficiency and effectiveness, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and within the framework of a balanced and sustainable development for all people,

Having considered the recommendation contained in paragraph 18 of part II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. Decides to create the post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

2. Decides that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall:

(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and shall possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;

(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General;

3. Decides that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall:

(a) Function within the framework of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2/ other international instruments of human rights and international law, including the obligations, within this framework, to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic jurisdiction of States and to promote the universal respect for and observance of all human rights, in the recognition that, in the framework of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community;

(b) Be guided by the recognition that all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Recognize the importance of promoting a balanced and sustainable development for all people and of ensuring realization of the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development; 3/

4. Decides that the High Commissioner for Human Rights will be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. Within the framework of the overall competence, authority and decisions of the General

Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, the High Commissioner's responsibilities shall be:

(a) Promoting and protecting the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights;

(b) Carrying out the tasks assigned to him/her by the competent bodies of the United Nations system in the field of human rights and making recommendations to them with a view to improving the promotion and protection of all human rights;

(c) Promoting and protecting the realization of the right to development and enhancing support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose;

(d) Providing, through the Centre for Human Rights and other appropriate institutions, advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights;

(e) Coordinating relevant United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights;

(f) Playing an active role in removing the current obstacles and in meeting the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and in preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(g) Engaging in a dialogue with all Governments in the implementation of his/her mandate with a view to securing respect for all human rights;

(h) Enhancing international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights;

(i) Coordination of the human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system;

(j) Rationalization, adaptation, strengthening and streamlining of the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness;

(k) Overall supervision of the Centre for Human Rights;

5. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly;

6. Decides that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall be located in Geneva and shall have a liaison office in New York;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide appropriate staff and resources from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations, to enable the High Commissioner to fulfil his/her mandate, without diverting resources from the development programmes and activities of the United Nations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.